

**In the Claims:**

In addition to the cancellation of claim 2 by the amendment filed in the international phase of this application, please cancel ~~claims 11, 12 and 15-18~~ without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer comprising:

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and

a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured, wherein:

the main body has a first side where the probe protrudes from the main body and a second side opposite to the first side, the second side forming a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe, a center of curvature of this curved surface being located in the vicinity of a base end of the probe.

3. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer comprising:

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and

a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured wherein:

the main body comprises at least one indicator for allowing a user to recognize a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

4. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3, further comprising a switch for starting the measuring of the eardrum temperature, which is used across a plurality of main-body-holding methods, wherein the indicator is provided on a surface of the switch.

5. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicator is arranged on a reference plane which contains a center axis of the probe.

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6. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicators are arranged on both sides of the reference plane containing the center axis of the probe.

7. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the main body has a first side where the probe protrudes from the main body and a second side opposite to this side, the second side being constructed of a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to the reference plane.

8. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicator is configured to allow the user to recognize a main-body holding method used in a case when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from an opening of the external auditory canal to a back side of the person whose temperature is to be measured, and a main-body holding method used in a case when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from the opening of the external auditory canal to a front side of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

9. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicator is configured to allow the user to recognize locations on the main body at which a portion of the hand which is to be a reference for the main-body holding methods is to be positioned.

10. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 9, wherein the portion of the hand which is to become the reference for the main-body-holding methods is an index finger.

13. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicator is constructed as a convex portion.

14. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the indicator is constructed as a concave portion.

19. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer, comprising:

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a main body configured to be held by hand when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured; and a start-measuring switch for a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured and having a shape which can allow a user to recognize the plurality of main-body-holding methods.

20. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 19, wherein the start-measuring switch is arranged in a substantially symmetrical fashion with respect to a reference plane which contains a center axis of the probe.

21. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the main body has a first side where the probe protrudes from the main body and a second side opposite the first side; and wherein the second side is constructed of a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to the reference plane containing the center axis of the probe.

22. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer comprising:

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured wherein the main body comprises an indicator surface configured to allow a user to recognize a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

23. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 22, wherein the indicator surface comprises a plurality of surfaces arranged substantially symmetrically with respect to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

24. (Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 22 or 23, wherein the indicator surface comprises a plurality of substantially flat surfaces that are aligned along a

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direction that is perpendicular to the reference plane and are joined in such a way that neighboring substantially flat surfaces form interior angles of  $10^\circ$  to  $170^\circ$ .

U.S. GOVERNMENT USE